

A CHAT WITH STEAD.

Frank Carpenter's Talk With the English man-of-war stands he will be defended by that vessel and the same service will be rendered by an American naval

CORNERED IN HIS SANCTUM.

The Editor Tells How He Came to Start the Review of Reviews, and Advocates a Union of the English-Speaking World-Interviews With Great Men-His "Pall Mall Gazette"



HAVE JUST HAD AN interview with one of the great men of the world. I refer to Mr. editor of the Pall Mail the world. He knows how to make a man think Gazette and now of The Review of Reviews. The Review of Reviews was founded by Mr. Stead only a short time

world and editions of it are published in England, in the Puited States and in Australia, Mr. Stend calls it The Business Man's Magazine and he tells me that its aim is to present a true picture of the thought and progress of the world ments by month and to be the leader in all inevenients for the improvement of the human race. This is Mr. Stead's idea and he is permissive stand for putting such a thought into action. He is a sort of a journalistic fromwell. He has the nerve of a giant, the pass of a Junius and the intellectual vigor of a Thomas Carlylo. He believes in accomplishends and he cares but little for means i they be honest ones. He made all the world udder a few years ago in his "Maiden Tribute to Modern Baction," when he laid bare the life of artistocratic Loudon and showed how little girls were bought and sold for roue nobility. As editor of the Pall Mail Gazette he forced parliament to reform this and other evils, even though he had to go to prison for his action in the undertaking, and he is today fighting the

Mr. Stead is now lifty-three years old. The son of a Congregational minister, he left school at fourteen to take the place of an office boy in a mercantile establishment. After working here eight years his salary had risen to \$325 a year, on he gave up his place to be the assistant tor of a half-pount daily. He at once showed make the position to another, working unfous necessary acceptance until along about the became chief editor of the Pall Mail offe, which, under him, soon got to be one greatest acceptance in 1830 to found the Refer of Reviews, and he is now devoting him. at. He rapidly advanced from one view of Reviews, and he is now devoting his

I called upon him not long ago in his office, on Norfolk street, just off the Thames em-



THE KING OF BELGIUM. the mantel over the open many portraits of the ares of James Russell Lowell. Over the doors and between the windows was a roller-top desk which was littered with manuscripts, and near it a wide divan which was also covered with papers of various kinds. A large bust of Cardinal Manaing looked down from the top of the desk and as I entered Mr. Stead minister at St. Petersburg, Sir Robert Morier, and the other diplomats. It is, you know, not considered aronger for a minister to present one hand. He at once plunged into business with me, and in five minutes he told me more about London than I had been able to learn in the week I had spent in trying to find out about things before coming to him. He is more like an electric dynams in clothes than any man. I know. He talks like lightness than any man. estic dyname in ciothes than any man I fle talks like lightning and a blaze of ctual sparks fellow his words. He looks like a practical American Methodist er than a London litterateur. He is in his dress and habits. His soft hat is crushed in at the top snuff-colored suit of business clothes as though their owner had been on hing tour and had just got home. He talks more like an American then an Englishman. He has no cockneytens or anglicisms in his conversation. He never says "You know," and the only English siang I noticed in his talk was the word "blooming," by which he would now and then refer to some people whom he held in contempt as the "whole blooming set." is, I judge, about five feet seven inches and he weighs about 150 pounds. He has and complexion, bright blue eyes and a hy reddish brown beard. His hair is ed up from a high, broad and full fore-

combed up from a high, econd and his shoulders. head, and he stoops a little in his shoulders. He laughs easily and tells a story as well as he It was during a lunch with him at Gatti's on the Strand that I asked him how he came to originate the Review of Reviews. He re-plied: "I had long had the idea of such a maga-gine, and I intended to make it a monthly sup-plement of the Patt Mut! Gazette. The owners the Pall Mall Gazette, however, did not want to put any money into the scheme and I got there was a big field for it and I thought it was my duty to work it. I did not expect to make any money out of it, and my wildest ambitions were that it would pay me, perhaps, from a thousand to fifeen hundred dollars a year, which as an addition to my salary on the Palit Mail objected and that I was looked upon in England as his friend, owners of the Palit Mail objected and that I was Russia's friend and that I ought to that I was Russia's friend and that I ought to the surface of the Palit Mail objected and that I was Russia's friend and that I ought to de parties to take hold of it. I believed was not to be sneered at. After I id to start the magazine the s of the Pail Mail objected and me that I would have to leave the Mail Gazette if I did so. I considered it I was looked upon in England as his friend, that I wanted to the Pail Mail objected and that I wanted have to leave the Mail Gazette if I did so. I considered it the found the magazine and I resigned to found the magazine and I resigned to talk and he went over the began to talk and he went over the began to talk and he went over the whole situation with me and without reserve gave me his ideas. I found him a broad man and an honest man, and I left him believing that he would do right in every case as his own judgment dietated. I chatted with him for quite a long time; so long, indeed, that he kept the constant of you leat upon the mouthly magative that it is as much influence as duty to found the magazine and I resigned in the Pati Mail Gazelle and took charge of

"The daily has such a short life that its area of be a limited one. It dies the day it is born, and it can never reach the world at large. The weekly extends farther, but its news is also transient in its character.

The daily is a revolver. It is good for six shots at short range, and it does its work admirably. The weekly is like a rifle. Its reage is longer, but it is effective for that distance only. The monthly is the modern cannon. It carries 500-pound shots for miles, and when they go forth the atmosphere of the whole earth quivers. Our field in the Review of Reviews I conceive to the that of the English-speaking people of the world, and our end and aim is to bring these people close to one another. We want to see Canada, the United States, England and Austrelia brought together ing the governmental arrangements of today, but making it so that these Angle-Saxon people shall work together under common international laws and so that all the world over they shall protect and stand up for each other. As for the English and American naval stations working together, this could hardly be so now. The disparity of the two navies is so great, and you have almost twice as many people to protect as we have, but your navy is growing, and the time may come when if an American is ill-treated in

CHINESE GORDON.

"How about your talk with General 'Chinese

Gordon just before he went to Egypt? That

Egypt. The government had decided to give up the Soudan and Gen. Gordon was at South-

and he replied that he was and motioned me to go into the next room. I went in and the little man followed me. I took a sent and then told

gether, and his ideas were such that they re

own way, and the result was the death of Gor-

"The best interviews I have ever had," cor

tinued Mr. Stead, "are some which have never been published. One of the most remarkable I

have ever had was with the Czar of Russia, but

considered proper for a minister to present one of his countrymen to a monarch unless he has

been presented to the queen and have never considered it worth the trouble and expense of

buying a court dress, and it seemed to me at St.

Petersburg that our minister did not want me to meet the czar. I did meet him, however, and he received me in one of the rooms of his

palace at Gatchina. He sat at one side of a table during our conversation and I sat at the

other, facing him, and the conversation was free and open and there was an entire absence of red

tape about my reception. The ezar smoked a cigarette during the talk, though, by the way,

I remamber he failed to offer me one. He knew of me, for I had been writing in favor of

Russin for the past twenty years, and I began

INTERVIEWING THE CZAR.

" Your majesty, I am accredited in England

with being your agent. I am said to have been

been presented at court at home. I have never

"Yes," was the reply. "That was perhaps one

affected history, did it not?" I asked.

It was at the time of

"He could not object to this, and though he was very angry at me he listened. He did not ask me to sit down and we both remained standing throughout the talk. After a while he began to speak English in reply to me and I saw that he could speak English as well as I could. I have since understood that he was not at all pleased at my actions, but they served my purpose. I said what I wanted to say and he gave me in reply just what I wanted to get. He came, as I say, into the city to give me the incame, as I say, into the city to give me the in-terview and I have often wondered why he was not more gracious during it." HIS "MODERN BABYLON." In referring to the English newspapers Mr. Stead deprecated their lack of enterprise and push and said that they badly needed independence and spice. I asked him to tell me the story of the Maiden's Tribute to Modern Babyvessel to an Englishman in trouble. I would like to see a union, offensive and defensive,

lon," and he replied that the sense among the English-speaking nations, and the time will came when we will have it."

"The governments of these countries are so different, however, that a union is hardly possible," said L.

"There is not half so much difference as hecause its participants were largely sible," said I.
"There is not half so much difference as because its "There is not half so much difference as there seems to be," said Mr. Stead. "The whole world is coming nearer every year to the level of republicanism and self-government. We social evil still prevails in London to a greater finding out about the surface currents of the level of republicanism and self-government. We are rapidly approaching it in England. The fact that we have a queen and a royal family does not affect the matter. They are of no emecial influence. They have their place as ornamental figures on our governmental tables, but they affect the feast no more than the bouquets with which you ornament your tables at home. They are mesely a detail, and they have little to de with the government."

The conversation here turned to newspapers.

social evil still prevails in London to a greater extent, perhaps, than in any other city in the ocean.

This work is the newest that has been undertaken by the hydrographic office of the United States navy. Within the last two years it has newspaper enterprise the publication injured a mong the 2,500 skippers of seagoing vessels, from sailing craft to Atlantic liners, who contribute reports as voluntary observers in exchange for supplies of pilot charts, &c., given by the government. These bottle papers are printed forms which the observers are requested. William T. Stead, late Mr. Stead is one of the greatest interviewers of 100,000. We could have sold a million if we the world. He knows how to make a man think as well as talk and he gets out of every man he interviews the best that is in him and expresses it more clearly and fully than the man himself.

Could have printed them, and as it was the papers sold for half a crown apiece upon the streets. When the thing died down the reaction came. Our circulation dropped off and our advertisers rushed in to take their ads. out

"The field of the interviewer," said Mr. Stead,
"is one of the most attractive in journalism.

Irving was one of the first to withdraw his adago, but it has jumped to the newspaper is for the communication of thought. The newspaper is for the communication of thought. The interview is one of the best great magazines of the great magazines of the tare published in Eng-FRANK G. CARPENTER.

"That was rather a curious experience,"

"Then I do not see how we can talk to

gether, said he.
"Well, your majesty, said I, 'I am sure if
you cannot speak English you know enough for
me to make you understand what I want to say,

and I will speak it in English."
"He could not object to this, and though he

Written for The Evening Star. The Complaint of Santa Claus. Twas the night before Christmas the solemi stair clock Was ringing out Twelve with a clang and a shock, As I sat by that dismal, dark hole in the wall Unheard of, of old, which we register call,

I drowsily thought of the days when, a boy, I gioried in doughnut and taffy and toy: When up in the chimney my stockings I hung, And after dreamed dreams of the saint of the young.

The door opened slowly, and slowly in walked A long-bearded old man, who sat with me and talked: I felt not afraid, for I knew him no sprite,

I felt not afraid of him, simply because I saw at a glance he was old Santa Claus: I gave him a pipe which he lit, 'gan to smoke, And through the thick cloud that he raised, thus he of the most important interviews ever taken spoke:

> "Old poet, you're dreaming of days that have flown. When Christmas was jolly, and I was well known; My heart is, like yours, full of sorrow and pain For the good, good old times that come never

"When I was a power, yea, a power in the land, Ere new-fangled notions old customs had banned; thereupon telegraphed him that I must see him and that I would leave for Southampton on the When I with my sleigh load appeared, Christmas

next train. I have been told that he spent the seat of that day walking up and down and debating whether he would see me when I came or not.

When I got of the train I want at once to

toys; They say that I do not exist, but you see r opened and a little fellow, who I took Gen. Gordon's butler, asked me in and helped me off with my top coat and hung up my hat. I asked him il Gen. Gordon was in. That that is a fib, for, behold, here I be.

"The children are wise in these days, and the laws Of Nature they learn, and forget Santa Claus; They believe not in fairles, and ghosts, and what not-

the little man to please tell Gen. Gordon that Mr. Stead of the Pall Mall Gazette was there and would like to see him. Whereupen the little man said, "I am Gen. Gordon," and he reached me his hand said the took. For that I'd not care, had they me not forgot. "They say that I never filled stockings-that's flat-They study philosophy—can't credit that; I could not fill 'em now, if I so were disposed; hand and then took a cheir and sat down beside

I could not fill 'em now, if I so were disposed;

me. We then went over the whole situation to-

suited in an entire change of government policy. I listened to them and when I went back to London I laid them before the government winisters and they decided to government ministers and they decided to thing-nmcoept them and to send him to the soudan. I urged them to let him carry out his

Bob fine, and I in my old sleigh could bring 'em. ideas in his own way, and had they done so in all probability the war would have been speedily closed. It was his idea to have taken The young ones, like old ones, too knowing to New knowledge has laid the old faith on the shelf; The young ones, like old ones, too knowing by half. camel and to have gone alone to the camp of No stockings hang up, and at me dare to laugh.

the mahdi and to have discussed matters with him. But not the government would have its "I do not deem Christmas so blest as of yore; Its mistletoe, holly, and games are no more; I suppose, of course, kissing is still going on,

But I fear the old joility wholly has gone. "There's too much electric-is that the word?-It hurts my weak eyes, for the glare is too

the czar insisted that no mention of it should be made in print, and though I wrote a long The playthings are made by machinery now, And mine now are quite out of date, you'll allow. series of letters on Russia for the English and American newspapers and published a book on Russia the public do not know to this day that I met the emperor and talked with him."

"Please describe the interview," said I, "and "The boys play with toys that are driven by steam, And telegraphs, kodaks, that magical seem; If their forefathers saw them, they'd wonder and

quake. And yow that old Nick had a hand in their make. "I'm sick of the times, with their big public schools— But the children that I knew by no means were

Though they knew not as much as the children Their hearts were more light, I think-spirits more

gay.

"If the children can do without me, well and good! I'll not bother about them-be that understood! They may harass their fathers and mothers for

And buy at ten-cent stores their latter-day trash. "But I'll come no more-I'm not needed, I think-Good-bye!"-"Ha, hold on, and take something to drink!"

But stay he would not-out he slipped through the Cried "May the saints bless you!"-I saw him no

I was sorry he went, and for tears I was ripe But I found on my table a fine meerschaum pipe: To taquire who left it I scarcely need pause, But I-I believe in good old SANTA CLAUS. -W. L. SHOEMARER.

A Good Excuse. From Puck. Willy's Mother-"Willy, don't you know it is erong to play with your soldiers on Sunday?" Willy-"But, mamma, this is the Salvation

Belle Weatherbee-"How sheepish you looked when you proposed to me." Jack de Rham—"That's because you pulled the wool over my eyes from the first."

fighting your battles for years, and if this is so | From Puck. Kenneth (aged three, very tired by a long walk)-"Mamma! My shoes are getting new

the reply. "I went to Belgium especially to see the king and he came in to his capital to meet me. He is, you know, a very tall man and a very pompous one. When I was presented to him he stood up very stiff and straight and said, in labored English: "I do not speak the English, so we will have our conversation in French."

"Ent your majests is said I I do not speak the ing to Learn Them. ing to Learn Them. " But, your majesty, said I, 'I do not speak

AN APPEAL TO THE BOTTLE.

Tracing Currents by Setting Floating Objects Adrift-Some Singular Results-The Sargoesa Sea-How Derelicts Are Located-

Experiments of the Prince of Monaco.



HESETTING AFLOAT of messages in bottles has been an expedient resorted to by shipwrecked mariners for many centuries. Often has a writing thus consigned to the waves been the happy means frequently such a docu-

ment, picked up years later perhaps, has re-

to inclose in bottles and throw overboard after marking upon each of them the latitude, longi-tude and date. On each paper is a separate bottled and launched. THE STORY OF THE BOTTLES.

The courses taken by the bottles in drifting tells the story of the ocean currents, and to mariners. Chiefly it is valuable for enabling she had every appearance of having been ocvessels to select such routes across the sens as cupied immediately before.

The weather was fair, and there was a gentle will make it possible for them to take advantage of favoring streams and to avoid unfavorable ones. Columbus knew nothing about the currents of the Atlantic, and so he made his way to the new world by the path which the surface drift laid out for him. Thus, after being driven far to the southward, he finally brought up at San Salvador. Knowing where he started from and the point at which he finally arrived, hydrographers today can draw a curved line on the map showing exactly the course which he must have followed. Just at this time such a fact possesses no little interest. Only a few months ago

the hydrographic office was called upon to determine the probable location of a Pacific mail steamship which was lost in the Pacific ocean. Her machinery having broken down, as was reported by a vessel which had signaled her, she had drifted off and nothing had been heard of her for weeks. The Pacific Mail Company, being unable to find her, appealed to the experts at Washington, who promptly pointed out the exact spot where she would be discovered. And she was found there, 500 miles west of where the owners had been THE OCEAN PATHWAYS.

across the ocean. They are none the less actual roads because they are marked with imaginary lines instead of iron rails. Within the last few weeks the experts have been called on to lay quired, one to go and the other to come back by. The road eastward had to be far north of The fact is interesting to contemplate that if the great Atlantic liners between the United States and Great Britain are as accurately made out and followed as if they were built on land, the winter track being some distance south of the summer track because of icebergs. Overthese watery roads the ocean greyounds travel at the speed of moderately fast railway trains, the maximum attained by the City of Paris being about 23 miles an hour. The tracks going and coming are 40 to 60 miles apart, and the pilot charts warn sailing vessels to avoid them, just as wagons are warned to keep off the railroads, for these swift steam-ships do not stop for fog or anything, but keep on at full speed night and day, last summer one of them cut the schooner Fred. B. Taylor fairly in two, the latter being on the track, one-half floating one way and the other half the

other way.

A PRINCE'S EXPERIMENT.

Some of the bottled papers set afloat by the Prince of Monaco floated for more than five years before they were picked up. His serene nigh 1000, who is an enthusiast in such matters, has devoted much attention to experiments of this sind. For the purpose of studying the surface currents of the Atlantic he launched surface currents of the Atlantic he launched from his sailing yacht in 1885 and 1886 a great number of floats, consisting of wooden casks, copper globes and glass bottles. All of them were weighted to prevent any part of them from being out of the water to catch the wind, the object being to determine the drift. He finally determined that the best float for the purpose was a thick glass bottle coated with pitch and covered over this with copper. Of such bottles he launched 931 in the year 1887, in a line stretching from the Azores to the in a line stretching from the Azores to the Grand Banks of Newfoundland.

Each of them contained a document in nine languages, asking the finder to record on it the locality and date of discovery and to forward it to the nearest maritime authorities. Of all the bottle papers thus distributed he got back 227, some of them bringing up in Iceland, others on the west coast of Africa, others on the shores of America and fourteen as far away as Japan. The prince has published charts which show most interestingly the courses taken by the Atlantic currents as proved by

taken by the Atlantic currents as proved by the bottles.

A VAST WHIRLPOOL.

It has long been known that the waters of the Atlantic ocean are a sort of whirlpool on a gigantic scale, the central point of which is a short distance to the southwest of the Azores. Just as is the case of an atmospheric cyclone, there exists in the middle of this aqueous vortex a region where the fluid of the sea has scarcely any motion, so that bottles or other floating objects entering it are apt to remain there indefinitely, sinking finally to the bottom. For miles thereabout the surface of the ocean For miles thereabout the surface of the ocean will be many an older person who gots tired during the day, he cannot always sleep. At such times, after he has said his prayers, his mother has to go and sit by his bed to quiet him.

Recently both the boy and his little sister—the latter occupying a tiny bed in another part of the room—could not and would not be quieted sufficiently to go to sleep. The mother had other duties, and, wishing to leave the children, said: "Now be quiet and good, my little ones, the Lord will take care of you." Will He, mamma?" asked the little boy. "Yes, "Will be many an older person who gots tired during the day, he cannot always sleep. At such times, after he has said his prayers, his mother has to go and sit by his bed to quiet him.

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they have arm-like fore fins, with which they cling to the weed, making their nests by binding together globular masses of it as big as Dutch cheeses. This they accomplish by means of long, gelatinous strings, which they form for the purpose, finally depositing their eggs in the center of the sphere thus composed. The weed itself is upheld by bulbs filled with air, which serve as floats.

which serve as floats.

Shrimps and crabs swarm in the weed, and they, as well as the fishes, are colored yellow and white in spots like the weed itself, for protective purposes. Sea worms similarly tinted are found there also in great numbers. All of the animals which dwell in this strange Sargasso sea seem to be either yellow and white or else perfectly transparent. There are transparent cuttlefish, transparent shrimps and transparent worms. One can see through them as clearly as if they were made of glass. There are also pelagic sea-anemones that have the bases by which their kind cling to rocks on

should that part of the floor of the sea be up-heaved at some future time by volcanic action it would furnish mines of manure sufficient to fertilize the farms of the world. Supposing that it were possible economically to fetch to Europe or America great quantities of this water plant which now floats useless it would be enormously advantaged.

be enormously valuable as a fertilizer.

Many "derelicts"—i. e., deserted and waterlogged vessels—find their way into the Sargasso
sea, where they float about for a long time and finally break up or sink. An important feature of the work of the hydrographic office is the finding of such dangers to navigation, the approximate location of which are plotted monthly on the pilot charts distributed to skippers. Four years ago great alarm was felt on account of a gigantic raft of logs which went adrift south of been the happy means of rescuing castaways, bringing succor to those whom hope had well nigh forsaken. More frequently such a docu-

The hawsers parted in a hurricane, leaving the raft in the direct track of commerce. The lieved suspense by making certain the fate of missing voyagers. It seems odd that this idea should have been recently adopted by science for the practical and unromantic purpose of the raft, which had luckity been broken up by the storm, the remnants of it being found scattered over a wide space about 100 miles south east of the point where it was lost. For some time it was imagined that the floating logs might do damage, but, though many vessels encountered them, no harm resulted.

DERELICTS.

This would have been the most dangerous derelict ever known if the raft had held together. Vessels which come under this denomiprinted forms which the observers are requested nation are most commonly laden with lumber or some other light cargo, so that they do not sink, but merely become water logged, floating about dismasted with decks on a level with the space in which the person who may find the bottle is asked to write the date and locality, time to avoid them. Continually drifting there time to avoid them. Continually drifting there The safterward forwarding the paper to the nearest is no telling when or where they will be en-united States consul or to the hydrographic countered, and a collision with such an ob-office at Washington. Directions as to these matters are printed on the paper in several Ships often sail away and are never heard languages. Up to the present time 261 of the from again, though there has been no storm Ships often sail away and are never heard bottle papers thus scattered broadcast have and in such cases they are reported "missing," been returned, but thousands of them are still the likelihood always being that they have me aftoat, and of these a considerable percentage will be picked up sooner or later. Of course, it is impossible to know how many of those placed in the hands of observers have been duly districts, each one keeping its own district clear. The most extraordinary derelict ever heard of was the barque Marie Celeste, which was found in the middle of the Atlantic deserted, with every sail set, dinner balf cooked knowledge of these is of the utmost importance in the galley and not a soul on board, though

breeze. She was towed into port, but no explanation of the mystery has every offered itself. One of the uses of studying the surface currents of the seas is for the tracking of derelicts. Often, when a very dangerous one is located, a steamer is sent out to blow it skyhigh with explosives.

WEATHER PREDICTIONS AT SEA. Before many years have passed there will be adopted a regular system for making predictions of weather on the ocean, based upon observations at stations in different parts of the Atlantic. It is not practicable to construct re-liable forecasts for that vast waste of waters from data obtained on its shores.

Therefore it is proposed that observatories shall be established on the Bermudas, the Azores, the Canaries and the Cape Verde Islands, all of which are already or will soon be connected with the continents by telegraphic cable. Excepting the Bermudas, all of these islands have localities suitable for high-level observatories. There are mountains in the Azores a mile and a half high, in Madeira a looking for her. This was figured out from known facts respecting the direction and velocity of the currents in that great waste of locity of the currents in ble, because it lies near the tropic and on the An important part of the business of the parallel where most of the important cyclones that traverse the Atlantic are generated.

struments for noting the first appearance, na-ture and progress of disturbances, and the in-telligence thus secured will be transmitted to the mainland in time to give warning of coming storms. In this way the destruction of shipping to the Mediterranean. Two roads were re- along the coasts by unexpected hurricanes will

the return path in order to take advantage of the entire surface of the earth were made level the favoring currents each way. The tracks of the whole globe would be covered with water the great Atlantic liners between the United oceans at present is about three miles.

Perhaps the best way to get a notion of what such a depth signifies is to think of a place three miles distant on the surface of the earth and to imagine the horizontal line connecting one's self with that place swung downward to the perpendicular. The deepest hole in any of the oceans is found just east of Japan, where the bottom sinks to a depth of five and a quarter miles below the surface. The voyagers on the famous expedition of the Challenger, found that it took an hour and a quarter for the heavy sounding weight to sink to the bottom of this mighty chasm. RENE BACHE.

SAYINGS OF CHILDREN.

Their Questions Sometimes Take Away One's Breath. From the Search Light in Godey's.

True it is out of the mouths of children often come words of knowledge deeper and greater than those uttered by seer or prophet. Those who have children, or those who having them not, love them, can best tell you the quaint and curious things the little ones sometimes say. To be sure their questions sometimes take one's breath away, and not the wisest or most learned philosopher could answer them. Just why ministers' children should say and do the queerest possible things, queerer and stranger than the children of others, it is hard to tell, but somehow we hear of their sayings oftener. Perhaps it is because they hear so much theology they become deeper and more concentrated thinkers, always having hard nuts to crack and

ers, always having hard nuts to crack and knotty questions to answer.

In a clergyman's family, not a thousand miles from New York, and whose name is so famous that it is known from one end of the English speaking world to the other, there are two children, a boy and a girl. The boy is five years old and as bright and handsome a little fellow as one would wish to meet. He romps and plays all day long, is into all sorts of mischief, but is so good natured about it that it is hard for his parents to punish him. When night comes he is tired enough to lie down and go to sleep, but, like many an older person who gots

there indefinitely, sinking finally to the bottom.

For miles thereabout the surface of the ocean is covered with what is commonly known as "gulf weed," large areas of it having the appearance of a drowned meadow, on which one might imagine it possible to waik.

This enormous vegetal accumulation was formerly supposed to be made up of plants torn away by the gulf stream from the shores of the Bahamas and of Florida, but it is now known that the weed grows and propagates while freely floating on the water. It teems with multitudinous forms of life. Not least interesting of the myriad creatures which inhabit it are certain curious nest-building fishes. They have arm-like fore fins, with which they cling to the weed, making their nests by bind-



Wasted on a False Monte Carlo-The Habitues of the Smoking Room-The Great Seaport of Italy.

GENCA. ITALY, Nov. 9, 1892. EING AN UNASSUM-0 ing man, with no capecial craving toward askmy grave without the ship's side and yelling: "Mein Gott mean dere? Gehen sie Shalfen? Donner und Blitzen! bring dem trunks in mighty quick,

ain't it." He meant something, I know. He said it as if he meant something, and the sudden activity among the men bringing baggage on board showed that they knew he meant something.

A party of four were on the deck of the North German Lloyd steamer Kaiser William II, just rendy to start on the voyage to Genoa, Italy, via Gibraltar. There were other people on the deck aiso. In fact, there were several other received as a contract of the second of other people, and as the last bell rang was the usual wild scramble to get on board and to get on shore. The Kaiser William is a thoroughly comfortable boat. She is German from the folly and popular commander to the little Dutch paintings scattered all over her. On the trip referred to she carried something DEATH AT SEA.

Generally sea voyages bear a very close family resemblance to each other, the routine in the main consisting of waiking, eating, drinking and reading. In cases like trips to Genoa, lasting about eleven days, there is a social element to be considered. Then, again some things which are common enough are always interesting. Among this class is death, and at sea a death possesses a peculiar solemnity. On the first night out a young man, traveling entirely alone and for his health, died suddenly, before any aid could be rendered. The burial at sea, with all its horrors for some and solemnity for all, was to take place the next day, which was Sunday. and in the afternoon nearly all the passenger prowded around to witness the ceremony. The ship plowed steadily on its way. The setting sun rippled its last rays over the vast expanse of water, into which a body was to be dropped, so that never could friend or relative say, "Here he lies." Still it was interesting and the rowd began really to enjoy their emotions. They were a good lot of people, were the pas-sengers of the Kaiser William, but it was with an undoubted look of blank disappointment that they received the news that the body would be embalmed and taken to Genoa. The general feeling was artlessly expressed by one young lady, who said, "Now, isn't that a shame?"

CENTRAL POINTS. There are central points of interest on an anomaly for 200 able-bodied emigrants to be then we would say: sailing away instead of toward America. The explanation was in the fact that they were talians. The sons of Italy are becoming noted fraining. The sons of Italy are various countries for their propensity to go to various countries 2. First in the Western or Latin Chu in big gangs as laborers and after the work is later in the Eastern or Greek Church. were 200 of these Italians, who had spent various periods in the United States, and if this same crowd had not smashed the contract labor law against them. Appearances were against them anyway, and they were not the kind of

On an ocean steamer the smoking room is the center for gossip and chat. During the day every male passenger who is not seasick strolls in more or less frequently, while some do all but sleep there. Here is found the man who drinks champagne constantly during the voyage and alongside the man of many voyages, who knows it all. Here during a portion of the evening is found the captain, with his broad accent and stories of Chinese dinners and of the Russian admiral who constructed the em-peror's yacht as broad as she was long in the hope of preventing any rolling. Along the broad decks passengers are walking briskly up and down or are lying wrapped up like mummies in the steamer's chairs.

THE POET.

Further along is the music room, with a piano and odd little decorations, and here on one of the sofas is found the poet. We know that he is a poet, for he himself has said it. He might have said he was a butcher, a baker or might have said be was a butcher, a baker or a candlestick maker and we would still have believed him. You would be greatly deceived in this man. Unless he told yon, you would never guess that he was a poet. He wears a beard and trousers that sing comic operas, but then he has the "poetic languor." He seldom leaves the sofas, which he deserts only to read a poem or to sing a little lay. He has a greatly deal on his mind, has this poet. He is greatly disturbed about the custom house inspectors. disturbed about the custom house insp His main fear is for his library, and his abject terror lest an unprincipled government should snatch this priceless treasure from him so roused our respect and reverence that in awe-struck tones we inquired the size of his library. The poet in dignified rhythmic tones told us that he had with him twenty volumes, all written by

A BLUNT OLD MAN. The individual with a long white beard just going down the steps is a very disagreeable old man. He looks amiable enough as he carries that young lady's shawls, but he is wearing a mask. During several days of the trip across two of our party were confined to their rooms. They were not seasick, but they might just as well have been. The first day after emerging I met this disagreeable old man. Said he "Your party taking a sea voyage for health.

"Yes, sir."
"Reminds me of a story. Once upon a time four little boys went skating when the ice was thin. P. S. They showed confounded poor judgment." judgment."
The old man stopped. I looked him in the eye, but he never quivered and I walked away. He was a disagreeable but decidedly athletic-

AT GIBBALTAR.

We left New York at 2 o'clock on a Saturday afternoon, and the sec-ond Monday morning found us close to the coast of Spain. At 8:30 a. m. the anchor was dropped off Gibraltar. Many of the pas-sengers went ashore and returned lader with rank-smelling flowers and wild stories. The view from the steamer's deck was picturesque enough. The towering rock of Gibraltar, cut off at the top in sharp lines and curves, and cut off at the top in sharp lines and curves, and with the vellow houses nestling along the base, resembles for all the world a piece of stage scenery not very well propped at the back. The harboy was crowded with vessels of all nationalities, although the stars and stripes were conspicuous by their absence. Around our ship were a dozen or more small boats, manned by picturesque Spaniards, who were selling fruit and cigars to the steerage pasengers. At 11 a.m. Gibraltar was left behind and the voyage toward Genoa continued. The sail along the coasts of France and Spain is as delightful as possible. With us the bay was as smooth as a mirror and the bits of scenery and delightful as possible. With us the bay was as smooth as a mirror and the bits of scenery and historical points passed kept up a continued interest. The night after leaving Gibraitar was celebrated by a dance on deck. The Kaiser William, built originally for tropical voyages, has her long decks roofed over, and, with canvas stretched along the sides, an almost perfect ball room was formed. The ship's band played with all the vigor usually found in perambulating German bands.

"For years," said a steady-going man, "I had never been away from home over night, and then things happened that made it necessary for me to travel a great deal. At first I found it very difficult to get to sleep nights. I stopped at good hotels, and almost always had good rooms and good beds, but there seemed to be something the matter, I couldn't tell what, and I found it hard to get sleep.

with walls of transparent jelly an inch this.

live in the weed, and so phosphorescent are they that at might one can write his name on one of them and it will presently come out in letters of fire. It is very odd to find insects in the open ocean thousands of miles from land—wingless long-legged black "skating bugs" of a species closely allied to those which dash about on the surface of fresh-water ponds.

ON THE PLOGE OF THE SEA.

ON THE PLOGE OF THE SEA wasted on that little French town to run a sewing machine for several hours, and the supply of sentiment was not equal to the demand, for some time later, when the real Monaco was reached, it was passed in grim silence. Even the old lady who had seen bine sulphurous ffames hanging over the bogus affair was unable to get up excitament enough to say a word. I was the only one to keep a lookout for suicides and the result was a disappointment. All that could be seen was a prettily situated town, stretching down to the bay. We were in sight of Monte Carlo fully twenty minutes and I don't believe there was a single suicide. Possibly, however, it was the week for poisons.

bly, however, it was the week for poisons.

The outer harbor at Genoa was reached at 6 cial craving toward ask-ing questions, I shall their trunks packed and their shore clothes probably go down to on ready to land. We, however, anchored for the night, and trunks were uncorded and the knowing what the gen-the thousands of lights twinkling on the hilltleman in uniform side, marking the site of Italy's greatest seameant by leaning over port.

CHRISTMAS.

in Himmel, vat you When and How the Festival Was First Instituted and Celebrated. [Written for The Evening Star.]

When, where and why was this festival instituted? As in almost all things ancient, there are various theories as to the origin of this day. It is certain that it is not of Divine appointment, nor even of New Testament origin. The ment, nor even of New Testament origin. The exact date of the Savior's birth is not known. to Winnipeg from a shorter distance than 250 The early church fathers do not speak of it and not until early in the fourth century is there letters from land agents stating that John

the fathers considered this event as His first ferred whether blonde or brunette, tall or real manifestation to men. The tendency of short, plump or thin, &c. Having stated his real manifestation to men. The tendency of the early church was to multiply festal days, and when they became too numerous they were arranged. A remarkable point was that no the early church was to multiply festal days, available ladies, whereupon matters were quickly and when they became too numerous they were merged into one or more great festivals. The construction the rolling propensity, so conducive to seasickness has been minimized. On the trip referred to she carried something over 100 cabin passengers, with about 200 steerage passengers.

The day when they became too numerous they were merged into one or more great festivals. Thus the Gefftile day, when Christ was manifested to other nations than the Jews. The day when the three wise men from the east came to bring presents. The day of the first miracle of Cana. The day of the first miracle of Cana. The day of the feeding of the 5,000 were all nerged into the one great festivals.

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The day when there wise men from the east came to bring presents. The day of the first miracle of Cana. The day of the first miracle of Cana. The day of the first miracle o feeding of the 5,000 were all merged into the one great feast of Epaphany, which was afterward known as the festival of the "Three Holy Kings" as the world's examplification idea by Kings," as the world's evangelization idea hecame uppermost in the church. As time went on there arose the day of Stephen's martyrdom, December 26; St. John's day, December nent seitlement of the country. Incides 27; the day of the massacre of the innocents, the natural increase of the population was pro-December 28; the Circumcision, January 1.

These were all united with the day of Epiphany,
January 8; the date changed to December

This

This other festivals and holy days are older than our

Christmas. The reason for this is that the church lingered at first about the facts of the death and resurrection of Christ, the completed fact of the great redemption scheme, and naturally made these scenes the center of their worship and annual festivities.

In later ages many observances other than added. Such as the lighting of large candles and the laying the huge log called the "Yule all observers of moral and religious conditions. clog" (from huel, round) on the fire to com nemorate the turning of the sun and the lengthening of the days. The dishes most in were, for breakfast and supper, a boar's head, with an apple or orange in the mouth, plum porridge and mince pie. Eating the later was considered a test of orthodoxy. The pie was considered a test of orthodoxy. The pie was made long in immitation of the manger in which Christ was laid. The private houses as well as all churches were decorated with everocean steamer. One of these is the steerage.

Generally it would be considered quite an anomaly for 200 able body. to the questions we started with,

1. Christmas was first celebrated in the fourth century and was universally recognized by all Christian creeds in the sixth century.

2. First in the Western or Latin Church, and

well as the older members of the family, when gifts are exchanged to celebrate the infinite love of God in the gift of His only begotten ter a holy fire of love and gratitude, and preaches in the longest winter night the rising of the sun of light and the undimmed glory of the risen Lord. J. D. Croissant.

A CITY SKETCH.

A Little Girl Brings Breeziness Into ar Elevated Car.

From Harper's Weekly. He entered an elevated train at Franklin street, with a white-clad, golden-haired baby girl in his thin old arms and a smile on his gray-bewhiskered face. Every man in the car was silent behind a newspaper or gazing gloom-

ily out of a wind.
"May I sit by you?" he inquired of an overfed, melancholy man in black, who was occupying three-quarters of a double seat in the mid-

dle of the car.

The melancholy man moved slightly. "Certainly," he said, and when he saw the baby girl he frowned at first and then smiled and squeezed himself into one-half the seat. "Breezy, ain't it?" inquired the old man, and four newspapers were lowered into as many

"Yes it is," replied the melancholy man, with another smile. "Seems to be blowing freshly up the bay."
"Shouldn't wonder if we had rain," ventured the old man so loudly and cheerfully that passengers for ten seats around looked over and smiled, and two or three began to converse tentatively, after the manner of persons who learned to talk very late in life. "Told my

darter this mornin' before I left hum that I thought it 'ud rain before night, but she said I'd lose an umbreil' 'f I fetched one. It does "Elecker!"—from the guard.
"Is this your grandchild?" inquired the melancholy man, beaming with all his visible cuticle.
"Yes, this is Susy; all the one we've got. Her

father 'n mother's dead, 'n she lives 'long 'o Almiry 'n me. Almiry's my darter." "Eighth nex'!"—from the guard.

"Eighth nex'!"—from the guard.

"Make 'em hustle, don't they? Don't give 'em much time to git on or off. Almiry's kind o' near, though she means well, Almiry does—I'll give her credit fer that—'n she thought all these fixin's wa'n't wuth while. But I says to myself I sin't out any myself. myself I ain't got any more grandchildren to bring up ner much longer to bring 'em up in 'f I had, 'n 'f Susy wanta as good clothes's our minister's little girl, she's goin' to hev 'em.

Ain't you, Susy?"

The child looked up into the serene, homely old face and smiled.

Old face and smiled. "Is this window too cold for your little girl, sir?" inquired a big coarse boy who sat opposite, pretending to read a grimy paper-covered "Eb?"

"Would you like the window closed?"

"No, thank ye. Can't hev too much fresh air for Susy. Why, she lives out doors, jest like a flower, when she's to hum. What street was that?" "Eighth."
"What's next?"

"That's where Racy's dry goods store is, isn'

"Yes."
"Well, we've got to get out there. Come

Every man in the car was sorry. From the New York Sun.
"For years," said a steady-going man, "I

found it very difficult to get to sleep nights. I stopped at good hotels, and almost always had good rooms and good beds, but there seemed to be something the matter, I couldn't tell what, and I found it hard to get sleep.

"I mentioned this fact to a friend, who said: "Get a clock." I always have a clock in my room at home, and I am accustomed to the sound of its ticking. It is curious how silent and strange a room may seem without it. That was what I wanted, a clock, and I bought one. Now when I get to my room in a hotel usually the first thing I do is to put my clock on the shelf. It ticks away bravely, a friendly and familiar sound, and I go to sleep without any

and hard-working fellows.

"They could not afford to go and get wives, and so helpmeets had to be imported for them. Young women, guaranteed as to respectability, were brought over from England in great numbers, and this business rapidly grew to be an important branch of the immigration traffic. One philanthropic lady in England devoted her attention to exporting homeless but worthy girls by the ship load to Quebec, whence they were forwarded to Manutoba. Trains would were forwarded to Manitoba. Trains would come into St. Boniface, across the river from Winnipeg, bringing two or three car leads of available wives at a time. They were chaperoned with due regard to propriety and were consigned to the land and mining agents, who conveyed them to Winnipeg where with his conveyed them to Winnipeg where suitable quarters were provided for their temporary accommodation. The accommodation was very temporary because they were soon disposed of The settlers who were bachelors applied for the girls as fast as they were brought in. Their applications were not considered unless they were properly guaranteed as to character and The date of His baptism was recognized and such a tract of land, was the owner of 1,500 horses, was sound and kind, and so forth. celebrated as early as A. D. 220 as the festival making formal application for a wife John of Epiphany. This took the precedence because

sale. The young women were given free trans-25 and the name changed to Christmas. This change took place in A. D. 380, hence all these seven minutes after the train came in the pair were united in matrimony and the bridegroom started away with his bride in a buckboard wagon.

Christmas Greeting to the Pope. All the cardinals at Rome waited upon the pope yesterday and tendered him the usual Christmas congratulations. In reply to the good wisher original idea of the birth of Christ were for the church and himself the pope said that the signs of a gathering storm were visible to

The European situation was prognant with rain and disaster, and these conditions could only be brought to an end by the healing virtues of the church, which herself was to be violently assailed.

In the course of his remarks the popera-ferred to the Free Masons, who he condemned as a malignant sect who were never true to the people, but who, unfortunately were supported by the government. The Free Masons have been fighting the papal influence for a long

The Christmas Tree







